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John Kean to Susan Livingston, July 30, 1786

John Kean

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What with the Gout & my friend Hindman's wishes here I am yet - tomorrow is talked of as the day of our departure, but I begin to apprehend we shall progress no further northward - there is but one thing I shall lament in this disappointment, ^{that} ~~which~~ is the missing the sight of the Cohoes, which I have been informed are a natural curiosity well worth the examination - indeed I know not but it will be best that it should be so, for I conceive this air sufficiently keen for me, & if the more northern increases proportionally in keenness it might be too much for me -

One principal reason with Hindman I imagine is the Lebanon jaunt - it is fixed for the 15th August - he must return to New York - therefore he cannot prosecute our first intention - without giving up the pleasure of attending the Ladies on the intended jaunt - a sacrifice not to be

expected from a man in his situation —
you my dear Susan can feel for him,
for you as well as myself know the
irksome & disagreeable sensation which is
the companion of absence from those
we love —

The good old lady here does every
thing to make me easy & well & the young
ones are perfectly amiable — I pass my time
as happily as possible considering that you
are in New York — I rise in the early
dawn of the morn & ride or walk until
Breakfast — the intermediate space until
twelve or one is occupied by Battledore —
Chess — Reading — now & then in fishing — and
sometimes breathing my soul out to Susans
spirit — from thence until dinner a nap
& dressing — after dinner conversation,
& the same sports as occupied the former
part of the day — with a visit to the
Chancellors fill up the space until a
summons to supper, tells me it is nine

O'clock, then I retire to bed & indulge my
fond imagination—

We dined at the Chancellors yesterday.
Mrs L had not been able to come down
stairs for three days before, having had
an attack of her pain in the breast for
which she had been obliged to apply a
blister— the weakness occasioned ~~for~~ by her
disorder— the exertion of being dressed—
overcame her so much that she was obliged
to leave table & was some time before she
recovered— however she was able to come to
tea— this morning she is better—

Indeed my Susan I fear for this worthy
woman— could my prayers or good wishes
restore her— how quick would health
glow in her cheek and the lustre of her
eye give pleasure to all who know
her— but alas I fear health will never
more bless the Chancellor by restoring her.

I long to hear from you - I wish
to know what you think - what you
say - what you do - I wish some
times that Balloons were the mode of
travelling that I might be transported
to you in a few hours - but was I
tell you all my fanciful wishes - there
would not be time enough for me to do it.

I have just returned from the
drawing room where I have been reading
to the family Mr Platts sermon on
Candour - ~~wherever~~ a virtue I hope
we shall ever possess
I am

Take care of your health -

Claremont
Sunday July 30th 1786. Tuesday 1st August.

The family have received letters from Mrs
Noble an Irish Lady I think - who desires to
be remembered to the Miss L^{ds} of Hanover Square -

N^o 3.

Miss Livingston